

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 29, 37, 48, 51, 61, 63, 64 and 68-70 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 72 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition process comprising:
admitting a hydrocarbon gas into a deposition chamber;
admitting titanium tetrachloride gas into the deposition chamber;
forming a plasma in the deposition chamber having a power level greater than a first ionization energy, but less than a second ionization energy, of the hydrocarbon gas for forming hydrocarbon radicals therein; and
heating a substrate to a temperature for some of the hydrocarbon radicals formed from the hydrocarbon gas to react with some chlorine atoms from the titanium tetrachloride gas for depositing titanium metal on a portion of a surface of the substrate.
2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the substrate is heated to a temperature within a range of about 200°C to about 500° C.
3. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon gas is selected from a group of compounds comprising C_nH_{2n+2} , C_nH_{2n} and C_nH_{2n-2} .
4. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon gas comprises an alkane having fewer than five carbon atoms per molecule.

5. (Original) The process of claim 4, wherein the hydrocarbon gas includes methane.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1, further comprising:
mounting the substrate on a susceptor;
heating the susceptor; and
heating the substrate using the susceptor.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the titanium tetrachloride gas includes a titanium tetrachloride gas mixed with a carrier gas selected from a group consisting of helium, argon and hydrogen.

8. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 7, wherein the titanium tetrachloride gas includes titanium tetrachloride gas introduced into the carrier gas using a bubbler apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 7, wherein a liquid injector sprays the titanium tetrachloride gas and passes through a vaporizer.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon gas includes a hydrocarbon gas mixed with a carrier gas selected from a group consisting of helium and argon.

11. (Original) The process of claim 1, further comprising:
removing reaction products from the deposition chamber during the process.

12. (Original) The process of claim 11, wherein an alkyl chloride gas comprises a reaction product.

13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the deposition chamber comprises a cold wall deposition chamber, with walls thereof maintained at a temperature within a preferred range of about 100°C to about 200° C for preventing condensation of the titanium tetrachloride gas thereon.

14. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the deposition chamber comprises a hot wall deposition chamber.

15. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the plasma comprises a plasma produced with a radio frequency source.

16. (Original) The process of claim 15, wherein the radio frequency source comprises a radio frequency source having a power setting within a range of about 20 watts to about 100 watts.

17. (Original) The process of claim 15, wherein the radio frequency source comprises a radio frequency source having a frequency greater than about 10KHz.

18. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the deposition chamber comprises a deposition chamber for maintaining a pressure within a range of about 2 torr to about 100 torr.

19. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the deposition chamber comprises a deposition chamber for maintaining a pressure within a preferred range of about 2 torr to about 5 torr.

20. (Original) The process of claim 1, further comprising:
premixing the titanium tetrachloride gas and the hydrocarbon gas before being admitted to the deposition chamber.

21. (Original) The process of claim 20, wherein a ratio of the hydrocarbon gas to the titanium tetrachloride gas comprising the premixture thereof comprises a ratio of between about four and about one thousand to one.

22. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a semiconductor wafer.

23. (Original) A plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition process comprising:
admitting hydrocarbon gas into a deposition chamber;
admitting titanium tetrachloride gas into the deposition chamber;
forming a plasma within the deposition chamber of the hydrocarbon gas for forming hydrocarbon radicals;
maintaining the plasma at a power level greater than a first ionization energy, but less than a second ionization energy, of the hydrocarbon gas for forming the hydrocarbon radicals;
and
heating a semiconductor wafer to a temperature sufficient to induce some of the hydrocarbon radicals to react with some chlorine atoms from the titanium tetrachloride gas for forming chlorinated hydrocarbon molecules for depositing titanium metal on a portion of a surface of the semiconductor wafer.

24. (Original) The process of claim 23, further comprising:
maintaining the deposition chamber at a pressure within a range of about 2 torr to about 10 torr.

25. (Original) The process of claim 23, wherein the power level comprises a radio frequency source operating at a power setting within a range of about 20 watts to about 100 watts and at a frequency greater than about 10 KHz.

26. (Original) The process of claim 23, further comprising:
premixing the titanium tetrachloride gas and the hydrocarbon gas for their admission to the
deposition chamber in a ratio of hydrocarbon gas to the titanium tetrachloride gas being
between about four and about one thousand to one.
27. (Original) The process of claim 23, wherein the hydrocarbon gas includes
methane.
28. (Original) The process of claim 23, wherein the hydrocarbon gas includes a
hydrocarbon gas selected from a group consisting of compounds C_nH_{2n+2} , C_nH_{2n} and C_nH_{2n-2} .
29. (Currently Amended) A plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition process
comprising:
flowing a hydrocarbon gas into a deposition chamber;
flowing a titanium tetrachloride gas into the deposition chamber;
forming a plasma in the deposition chamber using a power level substantially in ~~the~~ a range of
greater than a first ionization energy of the hydrocarbon gas to less than a second
ionization energy of the hydrocarbon gas for forming hydrocarbon radicals in the
hydrocarbon gas; and
heating a substrate to a temperature for some of the hydrocarbon radicals formed from the
hydrocarbon gas to react with some ~~of the~~ chlorine atoms from the titanium tetrachloride
gas for depositing titanium metal on a portion of a surface of the substrate.
30. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the substrate is heated to
a temperature within a range of about 200°C to about 500° C.
31. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the hydrocarbon gas is
selected from a group of compounds comprising C_nH_{2n+2} , C_nH_{2n} and C_nH_{2n-2} .

32. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the hydrocarbon gas comprises an alkane having fewer than five carbon atoms per molecule.

33. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 32, wherein the hydrocarbon gas includes methane.

34. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, further comprising:
mounting the substrate on a susceptor;
heating the susceptor; and
heating the substrate using the susceptor.

35. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the titanium tetrachloride gas includes a titanium tetrachloride gas mixed with a carrier gas selected from a group consisting of helium, argon and hydrogen.

36. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 35, wherein the titanium tetrachloride gas includes titanium tetrachloride gas introduced into the carrier gas using a bubbler apparatus.

37. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 36, wherein a liquid injector sprays the titanium tetrachloride ~~and gas~~ and passes through a vaporizer.

38. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the hydrocarbon gas includes a hydrocarbon gas mixed with a carrier gas selected from a group consisting of helium and argon.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, further comprising:
removing reaction products from the deposition chamber during the process.

40. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 39, wherein an alkyl chloride gas
comprises a reaction product.

41. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the deposition chamber
comprises a cold wall deposition chamber, the walls thereof maintained at a temperature within a
preferred range of about 100°C to about 200° C. for preventing condensation of titanium
tetrachloride thereon.

42. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the deposition chamber
comprises a hot wall deposition chamber.

43. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the plasma comprises
plasma produced by a radio frequency source.

44. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 43, wherein the radio frequency
source comprises a radio frequency source having a power setting within a range of
about 20 watts to about 100 watts.

45. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 43, wherein the radio frequency
source comprises a radio frequency source having a frequency greater than about 10KHz.

46. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the deposition chamber
comprises a deposition chamber for maintaining a pressure within a range of about 2 torr to
about 100 torr.

47. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the deposition chamber comprises a deposition chamber for maintaining a pressure within a preferred range of about 2 torr to about 5 torr.

48. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 29, further comprising: premixing the titanium tetrachloride gas and the hydrocarbon gas before ~~being~~ flowing into the deposition chamber.

49. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 48, wherein a ratio of the hydrocarbon gas to the titanium tetrachloride gas comprising the premixture thereof comprises a ratio of between about four and about one thousand to one.

50. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 29, wherein the substrate comprises a semiconductor wafer.

51. (Currently Amended) A deposition process having a hydrocarbon gas and a titanium tetrachloride gas in a chamber comprising:
providing a plasma for the chamber having a power level greater than a first ionization energy and less than a second ionization energy of the hydrocarbon gas for forming hydrocarbon radicals; and
heating a substrate to a temperature for some of the hydrocarbon radicals formed from the hydrocarbon gas to react with some chlorine atoms from the titanium tetrachloride gas for depositing titanium metal on a portion of a surface of the substrate.

52. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 51, wherein the substrate is heated to a temperature within a range of about 200°C to about 500° C.

53. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 51, wherein the hydrocarbon gas is selected from a group of compounds comprising C_nH_{2n+2} , C_nH_{2n} and C_nH_{2n-2} .

54. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 51, wherein the hydrocarbon gas comprises an alkane having fewer than five carbon atoms per molecule.

55. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 54, wherein the hydrocarbon gas includes methane.

56. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 51, further comprising:
mounting the substrate on a susceptor;
heating the susceptor; and
heating the substrate using the susceptor.

57. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 51, wherein the titanium tetrachloride gas includes a titanium tetrachloride gas mixed with a carrier gas selected from a group consisting of helium, argon and hydrogen.

58. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 57, wherein the titanium tetrachloride gas includes titanium tetrachloride gas introduced into the carrier gas using a bubbler apparatus.

59. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 57, wherein a liquid injector sprays the titanium tetrachloride gas and passes through a vaporizer.

60. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 51, wherein the hydrocarbon gas includes a hydrocarbon gas mixed with a carrier gas selected from a group consisting of helium and argon.

61. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 51, further comprising:
removing reaction products from the ~~deposition~~ chamber during the process.

62. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 61, wherein an alkyl chloride gas
comprises a reaction product.

63. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 51, wherein the ~~deposition~~ chamber
comprises a cold wall deposition chamber, with walls thereof maintained at a temperature within
a preferred range of about 100°C to about 200° C for preventing condensation of the titanium
tetrachloride gas thereon.

64. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 51, wherein the ~~deposition~~ chamber
comprises a hot wall deposition chamber.

65. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 51, wherein the plasma comprises a
plasma produced with a radio frequency source.

66. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 65, wherein the radio frequency
source comprises a radio frequency source having a power setting within a range of
about 20 watts to about 100 watts.

67. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 65, wherein the radio frequency
source comprises a radio frequency source having a frequency greater than about 10KHz.

68. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 51, wherein the ~~deposition~~ chamber
comprises a deposition chamber for maintaining a pressure within a range of about 2 torr to
about 100 torr.

69. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 51, wherein the ~~deposition~~ chamber comprises a deposition chamber for maintaining a pressure within a preferred range of about 2 torr to about 5 torr.

70. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 51, further comprising: premixing the titanium tetrachloride gas and the hydrocarbon gas before being admitted to the ~~deposition~~ chamber.

71. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 70, wherein a ratio of the hydrocarbon gas to the titanium tetrachloride gas comprising the premixture thereof comprises a ratio of between about four and about one thousand to one.

72. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 51, wherein the substrate comprises a semiconductor wafer.